

DETROIT RUMORED TO HAVE SUNK A GUNBOAT.

Report in Washington of a
Fight at Bluefields in Which
the Cruiser Fires Upon a
Nicaraguan Vessel.

Event Is Attributed to Gen.
Torres's Discontent with the
Settlement of the Double
Customs Question.

Navy Department Is Unable as
Yet to Affirm or Deny That
a Conflict Has Taken Place
as Reported.

Washington, May 21.—The President
discussed to-night with Secretary of State
Hay a report which reached the White
House from an unofficial source that the
Detroit had been fired upon in Nicaraguan
waters by a war vessel, said to be a
Nicaraguan gunboat, and that the Detroit
promptly responded, and had sunk the
Nicaraguan vessel.

Secretary Hay had not heard the report
officially, and could not throw any light
on the rumor.

At midnight the President had not been
able to verify the story from the Navy
Department or any other usual channel for
such information. The story, however,
was not denied.

It is believed that if the story is correct,
that the event is due to some high-handed
action on the advice of General Torres,
growing out of his dissatisfaction with the
plan of settlement of the double customs
demand at Bluefields by the Nicaraguan
Government.

It was understood by Secretary Hay that
President Zelaya had agreed that the sec-
ond payment of customs should be held "in
trust by the British Consul at Bluefields,
pending Nicaragua's proof to the State De-
partment that such payment was just,
which the State Department denies.

The Detroit was ordered to remain off
Bluefields until the arrival of the Vixen.
Commander James H. Dayton has charge
of the Detroit.

Ground of the Difficulty.

General Torres succeeded in driving out
General Reyes, the insurgent, some time
ago, and captured Bluefields. To General
Reyes, after he had established a de facto
government, the American importers had
paid custom dues to the amount of \$30,000.
Torres, a strong character, assumed con-
trol of Bluefields and contiguous territory
as a representative of the Zelaya Govern-
ment.

Truculent Torres.

It develops to-night that when Minister
Merry went to Bluefields on the Detroit he
saw at once the impossibility of dealing
with Torres, owing to his arrogance, and
went to the capital, Managua, and
Torres regarded this as an affront. Zelaya
tacitly agreed to the trusteeship of the
British Consul in the matter of the cus-
toms. It is reported that Torres violently
objected, on the theory that trusteeship
admitted the possibility of error on his
part in demanding the payment of the cus-
toms a second time.

HINT TO ENGLAND TO HURRY ALASKAN MATTERS.

She Is Told We Will Send Troops to
the Territory to Guard Our
Interests There.

Washington, May 21.—These well-known
American authorities on international law
have been suggested to the President for
the Board of Arbitration to adjust the
boundary differences between Canada and
the United States, as outlined exclusively
in to-day's Journal: George F. Edmunds,
of Vermont; Richard Olney, of Massachu-
setts; Benjamin Harrison, of Indiana.

POLICEMAN WOUNDS AN INNOCENT MAN.

Fired His Revolver to Frighten "Toughs"
and Hit a By-Stander.

Joseph Reynolds, a teamster, of No. 437
West Fifty-third street, was accidentally
shot in the leg last night while standing in
front of his home by Policeman Thomas
McCurcheon.

A gang of disorderly young toughs had
refused to move when commanded to do so.
A policeman named Brown arrested one of
them, and popped "form" assistance. Mc-
Curcheon came on the run and fired his
revolver downward, he says, just to
"frighten them." The ball, glancing from
the sidewalk, struck the unfortunate
teamster.

ASTOR MUST PAY THAT \$40,000

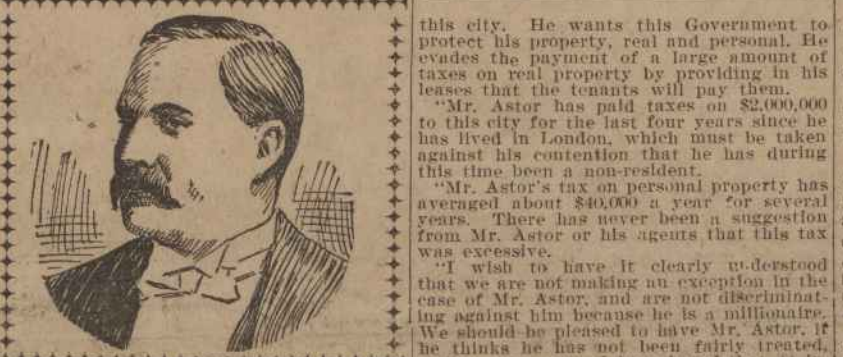
The Tax Board Has Reached the Conclusion That
William Waldorf Is Not a Non-Resident—His Affi-
davit Unsupported Is Not Sufficient.

Good for Tax Commissioner Feltner! The Journal has from time
to time called upon the Commissioner to make William Waldorf
Astor pay his just taxes. That absentee tax dodger came all the way
from England to swear off \$40,000 from his assessment, and went
back with the idea that he had succeeded. Now Mr. Feltner says
ASTOR MUST PAY THAT \$40,000, and if he doesn't like it he can ap-
peal to the courts. The Journal congratulates the people on the de-
cision, believing it to be a just one, and compliments Mr. Feltner on
a duty well done.

WILLIAM WALDORF ASTOR must
pay his taxes. President Feltner,
of the Tax Commissioners, says so,
and means what he says. The Journal
advised Mr. Feltner many times in strong
terms to take this stand. He has done it,
and Mr. Astor's Easter trip to New York
has proved fruitless.

It must have been a distasteful trip, for
Mr. Astor does not like this country. But
he immolated himself for the sake of dodg-
ing \$40,000 in taxes. In Mr. Feltner's office
he tried to convince that functionary that
he ought not to be asked to pay personal
taxes, because he doesn't live here. If Mr.
Feltner had agreed with him, the distasteful
trip would have been well worth while.
But the Tax Commissioners say that Mr.
Astor has not proved his case. They are
unanimous about this. The vengeance of
Mr. Astor's averring-off process has not
moved them. Taxed he shall be, they say,
and if he continues in an insurgent mood,
why, let him go to law about it.

"Mr. Astor," said President Feltner last
night, "did not come to the Tax Board
voluntarily, as did the Bradley Martins,
and announce his non-residence. He said
in his testimony that he appeared before
us because he had sent for him, which in
law is an admission of our jurisdiction over
his affairs. He made an affidavit that he
is a non-resident. This affidavit we look
upon as a mere conclusion, and if we did



Tax Dodger William Waldorf Astor

this city. He wants this Government to
protect his property, real and personal. He
evades the payment of a large amount of
taxes on real property by providing in his
wills that his estate shall be a millionaire.
"Mr. Astor has paid taxes on \$2,000,000
to this city for the last four years since he
has lived in London, which must be during
this time been a non-resident."
"Mr. Astor's tax on personal property has
averaged about \$40,000 a year for several
years. There has never been a suggestion
from Mr. Astor or his agents that this tax
was excessive."

"I wish to have it clearly understood
that we are not making an exception in the
case of Mr. Astor, and are not discriminat-
ing against him because he is a millionaire.
We should be pleased to have Mr. Astor, if
he thinks he has not been fairly treated,
make a test case. I have heard that he in-
tends to do this, and also that if he has to
pay taxes in this country he has declared
that he will dispose of his interests here
and bet of the Queen."

This action of Mr. Astor is in striking
contrast to that of John Jacob Astor, who,
it is said, at the breaking out of the Span-
ish war, ordered his agents to make an in-
ventory of his estate to see if he was pay-
ing his fair share of taxes on his real and
personal property.

MRS. CLEVELAND CALLS ON A POET.

Helps Mrs. Richard Watson
Gilder Honor the Birthday
of "Clementine."

Trenton, N. J., May 21.—Ellen Clementine
Howarth, a remarkable woman, whose
poetical works were produced while she
labored at the washbub, received unex-
pected and distinguished guests in her mod-
est and little home at No. 55 Wall street, to-day.

They were Mrs. Grover Cleveland, wife
of the former President, and Mr. and Mrs.
Richard Watson Gilder, who called to
offer her their congratulations upon her
seventy-second birthday.

Mrs. Howarth, a woman in poor circum-
stances and with no education, thirty-five
years ago suddenly began to write verses
full of patriotism and fire. They were
printed in the local newspapers under the
signature "Clementine," and then found
their way into the magazines. Mr. Gilder
was impressed with her work and helped
to find a market for it.

Mrs. Howarth says her poems came to
her by inspiration while she worked about
the house sweeping or at the washbub.
She did not write them down at first, but
kneaded them into shape in her brain, and
did not take up her pen until she was thor-
oughly satisfied with them. Her case is
looked upon as a literary curiosity, for she
began her output of verse very suddenly
and without any preliminary study or
training, and after a period of great activity
the output ceased almost as suddenly.

She says she does not write any more
because she has no longer the inspiration, and
does not wish to spoil her early fame with
inferior work. Her verses "Clementine's
Poems" were published soon after the
civil war, and had a very large sale. They
are now out of print.

The old lady, kindly and gentle, is being
cared for by her daughter, Mrs. Gilder, in
Trenton. Mrs. Cleveland, in her, and it is
said a book of her poems will be repub-
lished under the patronage of the wife of
the former President.

HORSE PILED FOUR IN A HEAP.
Frightened by Electric Car It Ran Away
and Upset a Phaeton.

A spirited black horse attached to a
double phaeton took fright at a Madison
avenue electric car at One Hundred and
Tenth street last night and ran to Fifth
avenue, where it swung the vehicle into
the Central Park curb, throwing out all
the occupants.

Alfred Diamondstone, had his right arm
broken; his wife landed upon her husband
and escaped with slight injury. Her one-
year-old baby escaped unhurt. Mrs. Bertha
Solovitz, Diamondstone's mother-in-law,
was cut about the legs, and Miss Annie
Solovitz, Diamondstone's sister-in-law,
landed on top of her mother and got off
with bruises.

WIFE SLAIN WITH BABE IN HER ARMS.

Hundreds Witness a Murder
on the Open Hillside
Above Hoboken.

ENGINEERS GIVE ALARM.

Sound Their Whistles and Ball
Players Pursue the Slayer
Across Fields.

ONE FELS HIM WITH A BAT.

Victim's Mother and Two Children See
Her Killed, but Are Unable
to Even Shriek a
Warning.

Tragically striking were the circum-
stances under which Mrs. Giovanni Mor-
retta, of No. 405 Adams street, Hoboken,
was killed yesterday, and dramatic were
the circumstances of the pursuit and cap-
ture of the murderer.

Giovanni Morretta, her husband, killed
her. The place he chose for the crime is
midway up the steep open hillside lead-
ing from Hoboken to the Heights. In
broad daylight, at 4 o'clock in the after-
noon, the crime was committed.

A nineteen-months-old child was in
the victim's arms. Her two other children
were beside her. Her mother was also
there, but powerless to interfere.

Morretta is a quarrelsome, and jealous
and quarrelsome. His wife was refined, well
educated and far above him.

She left him a year ago after he had
brutally beaten her, and tried to kill her
with a revolver. She took her children
and sadly set to work for them and for
herself, steadily refusing to return to her
husband, although time and again he en-
treated her.

A few weeks ago he assaulted his wife's
mother, Mrs. Rose Bertano, who he de-
clared was keeping his wife from him,
and after being arrested and fined, declared
as he left the court that he would kill both
of them. In spite of this, and of further
threats, he was allowed to remain at large,
and a few days ago, in mortal terror, Mrs.
Morretta moved to the home of her mother.

Tempted by yesterday afternoon's sun-
shine, Mrs. Morretta, with her three chil-
dren, and her mother, started out for a
walk. They went to the hillside, slowly
climbed up, and, resting beside a huge
stone, looked back over the town and up
at the great Hudson. It was the first
touch of peace the poor wife had enjoyed
for weeks.

Unperceived, Morretta skulked toward his
victim. Suddenly struck at her. She swung
the child that was nestled, sleeping, in her
arm, away from the blow, and the long
blade pierced her heart.

She fell, and the baby awoke with a
quivering cry. The other two children
shrieked. The mother drew the blade from
her daughter's bosom.

Below were the West Shore tracks, and
two engineers who had witnessed the deed
furiously blew their whistles as an alarm
and the men scrambled down the hill.

Men started in pursuit, and the nearest
were some baseball players, who, for-
getting their game, went after the fellow
with a rush.

Morretta almost escaped, for fear gave
him speed, but Stephen Barry, of No. 233
Monroe street, Hoboken, caught the play-
er, and swinging his baseball bat, brought
it down with a crash on the head of the
fleeing man, felling him to the ground.

Morretta was taken to the Second Pre-
cinct station, and, when stripped to be
searched, said:
"So you are going to kill me right away?
Well, I'm ready."

SAID SHE WAS HYPNOTIZED.

Middletown, N. Y., May 21.—The police
were notified by telegraph this afternoon
that a young woman was acting strangely
on the R. 40 train bound west, and were
asked to take charge of her on her reaching
here.

She climbed them at the train, but an
hour later they learned that a young woman
was trying doors with a key on Railroad
avenue.

When arrested she said she was Ella Car-
ver, of Trenton, N. J. She said she had
been hypnotized.

She is about twenty-four years old and
wears a red neckband and white fingerless
mitts.

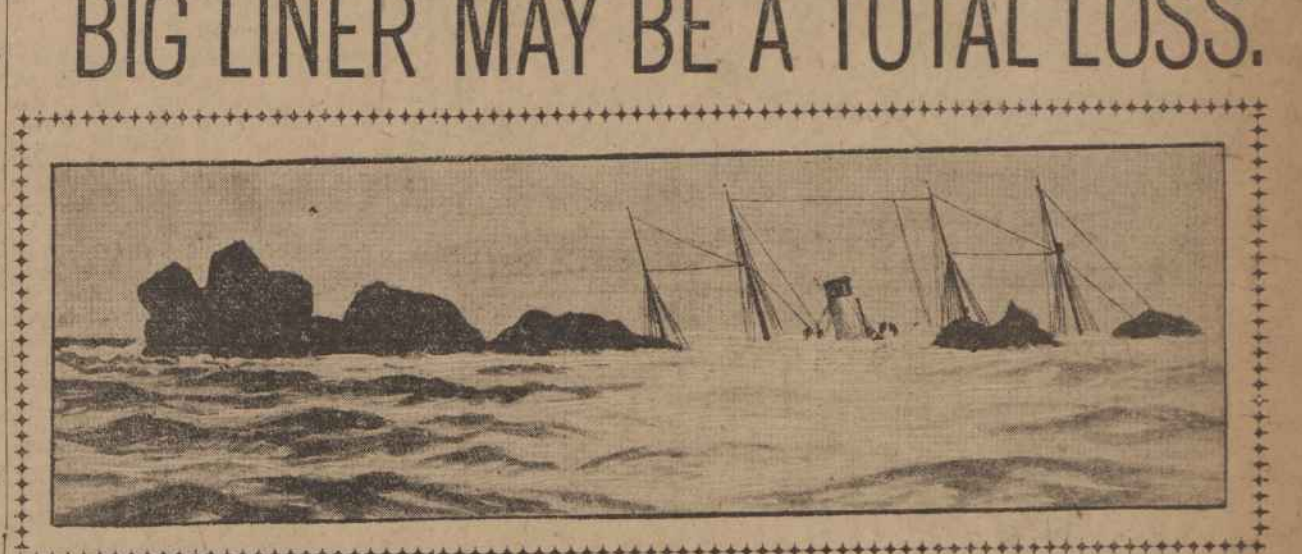
BRADLEY MARTINS'
BIG SWEAR-OFF.

They Renounce Allegiance to the United States, Turn
Their Backs on New York Society, and
Escape Personal Taxes.

It can be positively announced that Mr.
and Mrs. Bradley Martins have turned their
backs upon their old friends, and have left
these shores forever. There have been all
sorts of rumors as to the real intentions of
the Bradley Martins, but these were all set
to rest the day before they sailed for Eu-
rope, when they appeared at the Tax Office
in this city and swore off both their per-
sonal taxes and their allegiance to the
United States.

President Feltner, of the Tax Board, re-
ceived the Bradley Martins, who were ac-
companied by Mrs. Sherman, Mrs. Bradley
Martins' mother, in the same office where
William Waldorf Astor made an affidavit
that he was a foreigner. Mrs. Martin spoke
freely of the reasons which had led the
family to leave the land where the millions
she had inherited from her father were
made by selling barrel staves. She made
clear her belief that the social set in which
she had spent a part of her married life

PARIS' PASSENGERS SAFE; BIG LINER MAY BE A TOTAL LOSS.



Manacle Rocks, Near Which the Paris Ran Ashore.
The picture shows the masts of the ill-fated Mohegan, wrecked last Fall. In the Journal's cable dis-
patches it is stated that from the stern of the Paris the Mohegan's masts
can be plainly seen.

REINA MERCEDES AT HAMPTON ROADS

Anchored Two Miles Off
Shore Opposite Old
Point Comfort.

THOUSANDS VIEW HER. HE BOUGHT A CAMERA.

After Five Days' Quarantine Span-
ish Prize Will Go to the
Portsmouth Navy Yard.

Newport News, Va., May 21.—The Span-
ish cruiser Reina Mercedes, which left San-
tiago on Saturday, May 13, reached Ham-
ton Roads this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock and
is now anchored opposite Old Point Com-
fort, nearly two miles from shore. The
Spanish cruiser was towed from Santiago
by the Merritt Wrecking Company's tug
Rescue and J. J. Merritt was accompa-
nied by the tug Rescue S. T. Morgan.

As soon as it was learned that the Mer-
cedes had arrived in Hampton Roads boat-
loads and trolley cars full of people began
to arrive at Old Point Comfort, and during
the afternoon thousands of people saw the
only Spanish vessel of any size that was
saved from the great naval battle off San-
tiago. Many of them went out to the ves-
sel in launches, but no one was allowed to
go aboard.

The Mercedes was not detained at Fisher-
man's Island, but will be held for five days
at the Quarantine Station at Old Point
Comfort. Then she will proceed to the
Portsmouth Navy Yard for repairs. Dr.
Petkus, the national quarantine officer,
went out to the vessel as soon as she ar-
rived and made his inspection.

The trip from Santiago was made a good
deal quicker than was expected, the
weather being favorable. It is expected
that large crowds will go to Old Point
during the coming week to see the Spanish
cruiser. As soon as the Mercedes anchored
at afternoon the tug Rescue left for New
York.

M'KINLEY WILL GET CANAL REPORT TO-DAY.

Members of the Commission Are to
Start for Panama and Nicaragua
in June.

Washington, May 21.—The State Depart-
ment will receive to-morrow the report of
the Nicaragua Canal Commission. It will
be transmitted at once to the White House,
and the President will then authorize the
appointment of new members of the com-
mission, which will be sent to Central
America in June, to investigate both the
Panama and Nicaragua routes.

These members of the new commission
have been decided upon: Rear Admiral
Walker, Colonel Peter C. Hain and Pro-
fessor L. E. Haupt, all members of the
present commission; Engineer Noble, of
Chicago, and Engineer Morrison, of New
York.

If the committee consists of six members
it is probable that Major Shummonds, of
Buffalo, will also be appointed.

WOMEN COOLLY TRAP A BURGLAR.

Calmly Fool Him by Their Talk and
One Gets a Sheriff.

Binghamton, N. Y., May 21.—Mrs. Thomas
Purtell and her daughter Mary were alone
at their home on Tarbell Hill, a short dis-
tance from this city, early last Thursday
morning, when Stanley Blossom gained en-
trance to Miss Purtell's bedroom.

The young woman was awakened by the
sound of footsteps in her room. She at
once realized that it was a robber, but did
not shriek or hide her head under the
clothing. She quietly arose and entered her
mother's room, where, in a voice loud
enough for the burglar to hear, she said
she had become nervous, and being unable
to sleep, intended getting a drink of water
and sitting up for a little while.

Then, lowering her voice, she informed
her mother that there was a burglar in
the room and suggested that she get help.
Mrs. Purtell put on her clothing and slip-
ping from the back door, called Deputy
Sheriff Spiers. While he was dressing she
returned to her home and she and Miss
Mary talked together in a way to throw
the intruder off his guard.

When the Deputy Sheriff arrived he found
Blossom hidden behind the curtains in Miss
Purtell's room. He said he was searching
for Miss Purtell's diamonds. He was
taken before Justice Scott and held to
await the action of the Grand Jury on a
charge of burglary.

Miss Purtell is well known here and much
praise is being bestowed on her for her
coolness.

PERRY BELMONT'S HONEYMOON OVER.

They Are Coming Home and
Will Leave Lexington
To-day.

Lexington, Ky., May 21.—Mr. and Mrs.
Perry Belmont, who have been spending
their honeymoon here, visiting the famous
stock farms, will leave for their home in
New York to-morrow morning.

They are well pleased at having selected
the blue grass region as the place for their
sojourn, and they will likely return here
from year to year to see their horses.

Mr. Belmont has developed into an ardent
amateur photographer. He bought a camera
soon after arriving. He used many films,
but got only a few good negatives. His
subjects were horses, landscapes and his
wife. The latter had to pose frequently.

ALGER SNUBBED BY M'KINLEY.

The President Disapproves the Course
of His Secretary of War on Cuban
Arms, and Ends an Interview.

Washington, May 21.—Secretary Alger's
"matted-hand" diplomacy in dealing with
the Cuban proposition that the Cuban
soldiers' arms be surrendered to the Mayors
of towns has been pointedly disap-
proved by President McKinley. The breach
between the President and his Secretary
of War has been sensibly widened. A
somewhat sensational and not altogether
unexpected feature of the new cause of
quarrel is that Adjutant-General Corbin
has joined the ranks of the knowing and
important military men who have deserted
the sinking ship.

The report from the highest sources is
that when Secretary Alger called on the
President last evening to express his disap-
proval of General Brooke's concession to
General Gomez for purely sentimental rea-
sons the President ended the interview
brusquely, if not abruptly, and told him
that General Brooke's views had been sus-
tained.

Secretary Alger is exceedingly sore over
the fact that his disapproval of General
Brooke's plan became public. The final ac-
tion of the President in sustaining Broke
is regarded by Secretary Alger as a rebuke
to his judgment, and it is known that Gen-
eral Corbin not only agrees with, but coun-
sels the President to sustain Brooke.

The Cuban arms will go to the Mayors,
subject to General Brooke's military con-
trol, and eventually to Havana or Santiago,
and the payment of the troops will be car-
ried on under Brooke's order of May 11, un-
changed in that respect.

CAPTAIN WILKINS, OF THE PARIS.

noon, when the tide was high, but
it was unsuccessful.

As it was within an hour of the
morning flood when she struck, she
lies very high and wedged in the
rocks.

Coverack, Cornwall, May 21.—Blunder-
ing along the Cornish coast in last
night's rain and mist the American liner
Paris swept inshore close to the Manacles,
where the wreck of the Mohegan lies. By

extraordinary good fortune she missed that
complex group of crags and jammed her-
self into a sort of natural dock formed by
the rocks a stone's throw off Lowlands
Point, two miles east of here.

That was between 1 and 2 o'clock this
morning. The 300 passengers received only
a momentary shock of fright. Their atten-
tion was distracted with coffee, tea, lig-
nents and whiskey, while the crew got the
boats ready. Women who had scrambled
on deck in their nightgowns refused to re-
turn below, but when their clothing was
brought to them by cheerful stewardesses,
they dressed with decorum behind venil-
lators and in such other secluded nooks as
they could find.

At dawn they were all taken off. This
was not easy work, but it was accom-
plished with such perfect skill and cal-
mness by the crew that what was really a
thrilling experience, lost most of its thrill.

A CORNWALL COAST GUARD
STATION.